

What is claimed is:

1. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient which comprises a reaction product of an alkaline silicate and an acidic polycarboxylate.  
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2. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of alkaline silicate to acidic polycarboxylate is (40 to 1):1.
- 10 3. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the weight ratio of alkaline silicate to acidic polycarboxylate is (20 to 2):1.
- 15 4. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the polycarboxylate used is an unneutralized or only partially neutralized homo- and/or copolymer of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, polyaspartic acid, saccharic acid and/or other monomers.
- 20 5. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, which comprises from 50 to 98% by weight of an alkaline silicate and from 2 to 50% by weight of a

copolymer of from 10 to 70% by weight of maleic acid,  
from 20 to 85% by weight of acrylic acid and/or  
methacrylic acid, from 1 to 50% by weight of vinyl  
acetate and from 0 to 10% by weight of other monomers  
5 having a degree of neutralization of from 0 to 70%.

6. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingre-  
dient as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5,  
wherein the alkaline silicate has the formula  $xM_2O$   
 $ySiO_2$ ,  $zH_2O$  having a molar ratio of  $SiO_2$  to  $M_2O$  of (1 to  
10 3.5):1 where  $z = 0$  to 4 and  $M = Na$  and/or  $K$ , which may  
contain up to 1% by weight of other elements and/or  
compounds.

7. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingre-  
dient as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6,  
15 wherein the alkaline silicate is amorphous sodium  
silicate.

8. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingre-  
dient as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6,  
wherein the alkaline silicate is a crystalline sodium  
20 silicate.

9. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingre-  
dient as claimed in claim 8, wherein the alkaline  
silicate is a crystalline sodium phyllosilicate.

10. A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingre-

dient as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 9, wherein the other elements and/or compounds are aluminum, titanium, iron, calcium, magnesium and/or their compounds.

- 5    11. A process for preparing a pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient which comprises depositing an acidic polycarboxylate solution onto an alkaline silicate.
- 10    12. A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein from 2 to 60 parts by weight of acidic polycarboxylate solution are deposited onto 100 parts by weight of alkaline silicate.
- 15    13. A process as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein from 10 to 40 parts by weight of acidic polycarboxylate solution are deposited onto 100 parts by weight of alkaline silicate.
- 20    14. A process as claimed in one or more of claims 11 to 13, wherein the polycarboxylate solution used is an unneutralized or only partially neutralized homo- and/or copolymer of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, polyaspartic acid, saccharic acid and/or other monomers.
- 15    15. A process as claimed in one or more of claims 11 to 14, wherein the polycarboxylate solution is

deposited onto the alkaline silicate in a solids mixer which contains a liquid-spraying device.

16. A process as claimed in one or more of claims 11 to 15, wherein the reaction product of alkaline silicate and acidic polycarboxylate solution is dried at temperatures of from 40 to 150°C for a period of from 5 to 120 minutes.
17. The use of the pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 10 or prepared by the process of claims 11 to 16 for preparing detergents.
18. The use of the pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 10 or prepared by the process of claims 11 to 16 for preparing pulverulent detergents by the dry mixing process.
19. The use of the pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 10 or prepared by the process of claims 11 to 16 for preparing cleaning detergent compositions.
20. The use of the pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 10 or prepared by the process of claims

11 to 16 for preparing cleaning detergent compositions for cleaning hard surfaces.

21. The use of the pulverulent laundry and cleaning  
detergents ingredient as claimed in at least one of  
5 claims 1 to 10 or prepared by the process of claims  
11 to 16 for preparing dishwashing compositions.

22. The use of the pulverulent laundry and cleaning  
detergents ingredient as claimed in at least one of  
claims 1 to 10 or prepared by the process of claims  
10 11 to 16 for preparing dishwashing compositions for  
automatic dishwashing.